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A-191

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OCT 14 1971

FROM : Amembassy, GUATEMALA

DATE: October 8, 1971

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT OF INCIDENTS, September, 1971

REF

REVIEWED BY *CAF* DATE *Oct 1971*  
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY: For the second consecutive month, press-reported incidents of a probable political nature declined. These were 21 percent below the 1971 monthly average, but still almost double the pre-siege 1970 average. There were 87 incidents this month including 36 killings and 14 kidnappings and disappearances. The Government killed three members of a FAR group in Zacana in a publicized encounter.

Seven attacks were made this month against Government personnel in which two MLN members prominent in the provinces were killed and three military policemen (PMAs) were wounded. The Guatemalan Communist Party (PGT) celebrated its 22nd anniversary in customary style, exploding propaganda bombs and painting signs in eight departments. Violence in the capital was at its lowest point since last November--only five deaths appear attributable to political motivations, whereas South Coast incidents exceeded the capital total and the Eastern Region almost did too. Newspaperman Carlos Rafael SOTO, a FAR terrorist charged with a PMA's murder earlier this year, may be found innocent by the courts. All in all, it was a quiet month, at least for Guatemala in 1971.

## Statistics

### September

There were 87 incidents in the/ press of probable political violence, a figure down 21 percent from the January-September 1971 monthly average (110), but still almost double the 1970 average prior to the November state of siege declaration (47). Of the 36 bodies reported found this month, 19 (53%) were discovered abandoned by rivers, highways or on fincas, 14 (39%) were unidentified, eight

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GUATEMALA A- 191

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2

were reported in a state of decomposition, and six reportedly bore marks of torture. By occupation, the dead included two students, two small landowners, one military commissioner and an assistant, two ex-detectives of the National Police, and two regionally prominent members of the MLN, one of whom was a finquero. Most of those killed, however, were not identified by profession. The statistics also included 14 kidnappings and disappearances.

By attribution the left-wing subversives appear to be responsible for up to four (11%) of the month's press-reported killings and 18 (21%); of the total incidents. The Government seems to have been involved in at least four (11%) of the killings and two (2%) of the incidents, one of which was an overt operation.

#### Activities Attributable to Far Left Terrorists

The Guatemalan Communist Party (PGT) celebrated the 22nd anniversary of its first congress in traditional style by exploding propaganda bombs and painting signs about the countryside. The press did not keep a complete tally, but between 25 and 30 bombs were exploded in eight departments (Escuintla, San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Jutiapa, Chimaltenango, Suchitepequez, and Guatemala).

Five attacks against security forces this month suggest left wing subversive involvement. [REDACTED] **B1 EC**  
Assailants reportedly attacked and partially burned a PMA encampment in Izabal Department September 10, machinegunned and wounded two PMAs in the capital on the 16th, and shot and badly wounded a PMA guarding a San Marcos Department factory on the 30th. In addition, two private security agency officials were robbed of their weapons and wounded in incidents early in September in Guatemala and Escuintla Departments.

Assailants in San Marcos Department killed Domingo CHAJ Lopez, an MLN member incorrectly identified in the press as the Quetzal, San Marcos mayor, in the second week of September. On the 16th, PGT/FAR assailants reportedly dressed in olive-green uniforms, ambushed and machinegunned to death Izabal finquero Carlos THOMPSON and his administrator on Thompson's farm. Thompson was a close friend of MLN leader Mario Sandoval and President Arana (who attended the funeral), an original Liberacionista, and a 1966-68 vigilante in the Zacapa campaign. [REDACTED] **B1 EC**

[REDACTED] Perhaps in partial response, Arana sent helicopters to conduct an aerial reconnaissance of the area and Detective Chief Jose Alberto BARRIOS Ramirez to conduct an investigation, but neither apparently resulted in significant finds.

COMMENT: We have seen no sign that President Arana has shown any inclination to date to discontinue his present efforts to keep the GOG pacification program exclusively within the bailiwick of the Government

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GUATEMALA A-191

3

Publicized Government Security Force Actions

Acting on a lead, security forces launched a helicopter-supported attack against the Zacapa finca site of a band of criminals, killing three. One soldier later died from wounds incurred in the action. The Chief of Detectives (see page 2) told Embassy officers that over 10 members of the band escaped to the mountains.

COMMENT: This is the area where two large arm caches were found earlier this year [REDACTED] However the Embassy has no information that the group is linked to the far Left subversives. END COMMENT

The Government continued efforts to locate Alejos, a fact several press articles confirmed. Newspapers reported over 2000 men have participated in the search which has been extended to the provinces, but without success. [REDACTED]

B/EC

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month in an incident which took the life of a PMA guard (evidently non-political), protested to an Embassy officer that defensive action was not enough and that the Army should take more rigorous offensive actions.

Incidents in Guatemala and Sacatepequez Departments were the lowest since last November. Only five killings appeared to have political overtones. Ex-detectives Vicente DE LEON Barrientos and Felipe Humberto MONTUFAR Castillo were shot and killed in the capital on September 10 and 25 by unknown assassins. [REDACTED]

In addition, the press played up the death of visiting student Rafael Gonzalo FREYRE, who was found dead near Lake Amatitlan with four .22 caliber bullet wounds. Freyre, of Cuban origin studying in the US, reportedly was visiting his parents who reside in Guatemala. Finally, a university agronomy student, [REDACTED] and a humanities student were reported missing at the end of the month.

With 23 incidents (including 16 deaths), this region almost surpassed the capital's total. The Thompson assassination, the attack on the PMA encampment, and the Army assault on a Zacapa farm were noted previously. In addition, in Jutiapa, a military commissioner was killed September 27, and four persons were found shot to death September 20. In Jalapa, three attacks during the month by heavily armed bands of men resulted in two dead and a third reported missing. A DCG member, Justo HOIL, was reported kidnapped in El Peten at the end of September.

The Government did not fare well in the courts this month. The trial of newspaperman [REDACTED] Carlos Rafael SOTO Rosales, charged with the assassination of a PMA last January, reached its final stages. One press account observed Soto's university student lawyers were making headway in finding anomalies in the accounts of police and other Government witnesses, noting that the serial number of the gun alleged to be found in Soto's possession differed from that stolen from the PMA, and producing witnesses that he was on the South Coast on the day of the shooting.

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GUATEMALA A- 191

5

In addition, on September 5 the Public Ministry appealed a lower court ruling that Carlos Guadalupe HERRERA, [REDACTED] was not guilty of an assassination. Josue MARTINEZ Y MARTINEZ was absolved of charges of printing subversive material [REDACTED] SANDOVAL Valenzuela, [REDACTED] of charges of the violation of the Law of the Defense of Democratic Institutions. Sandoval, in an unusual move, has now opened a case against the police, accusing them of ill-treatment during his detention. B/ EC

Finally, seven were condemned to 30-year sentences for the 1970 assassinations of three including MLN mayor of Zacapa Marco Tulio ALDANA Sanchez, who was close to President Arana. Trial began in the case of two ex-PR deputy candidates accused of being the intellectual authors of the act. Both have connections with leftist subversives.

Between mid-November 1970 and September 1971, there have been 638 requests for court exhibitions of individual Guatemalans. Of this total, 20 have been subsequently reported killed, 55 have been released, 104 have been shown and kept under detention, and 459 remain missing.

#### Exiles

Four reports of Guatemalans seeking asylum made the news this month, although one was subsequently denied. Jose Roberto CARRERA Molina, [REDACTED] entered the Costa Rican Embassy early this month. Josue MARTINEZ Y MARTINEZ (see above) and Oscar Jacobo ROMERO sought asylum in the Chilean Embassy. Feliciano LOPEZ Arevalo publicly disclaimed a report that he also was in the Chilean Embassy and stated he only dedicated himself to art. [REDACTED] reports he also dedicates himself to the PGT, of which he is an [REDACTED] B/ EC

COMMENT: The Government-leftist subversive war continues, but as measured by known engagements, it has slackened off somewhat in the past two months and appears to be shifting to the rural areas. The three reported in September to be seeking asylum are one further indication that the Government's pacification program is having its effects on left-wing terrorists. If FAR terrorist SOTO is found innocent by the courts, the verdict will further strengthen the already firm beliefs of top GOG officials that the courts do not offer a viable solution to combating subversives.

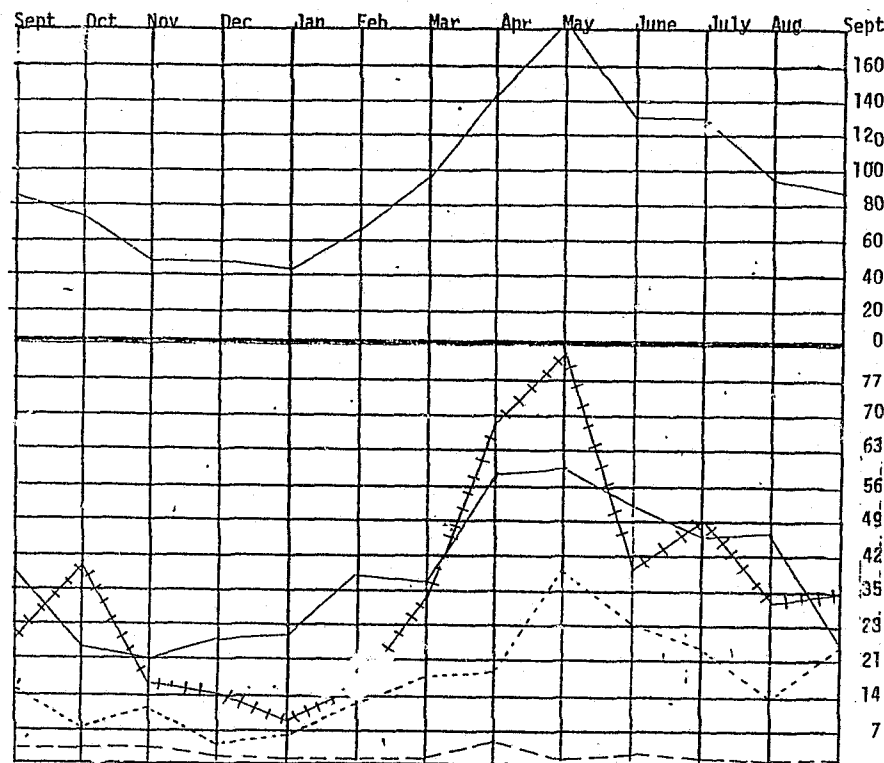
DREYFUSS

Enclosure Monthly Frequency of Political Incidents by Region.

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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION (1) - SEPTEMBER 1970 - SEPTEMBER 1971



Total - 87

(NOTE: The 25-30 PGT 22nd anniversary bomb explosions which occurred in eight departments at the end of the month are recorded on the chart as eight incidents.)

1. For purposes of this graph, acts of violence including shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.
2. Capital area (—) - Sacatepequez, Guatemala
3. South Coast (| | |) - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
4. Eastern Region (· · ·) - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten
5. Highlands (---) = Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola